

A. D. Fakonas

56 Via Floreado
Orinda, CA 94563

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I urge you to settle the antitrust case against Microsoft. The issue has been dragged out far too long, to the detriment of the US economy and consumers. In fact, it often felt like the main reason this case was ever brought up was because its competitors were better at navigating the political world.

Although Microsoft's business dealings may have been heavy-handed in the past, they were not detrimental to the consumer marketplace. I, like most (even marginal) computer users, have always had the option to use products from any software vendor. I personally have used both Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator, and I still use both Microsoft Media Player and Real Networks RealPlayer. I have both on my computer simultaneously, and both work fine. The fact is that Microsoft has become a dominant force because it has provided superior products at good value. The settlement negotiated in November eliminates Microsoft's ability to force programs and products on consumers and manufacturers by requiring Microsoft to allow competitors to place their own programs on Windows. The result is a playing field as level as the competition will ever get.

Please drop the case and settle without further litigation. Everyone has dwelled on the matter long enough.

Sincerely,



A. D. Fakonas